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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FROM EU: SOCIAL INNOVATION

Call for proposals for social policy innovations supporting reforms in social services

PROGRESS Axis – EASI Programme



The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. EaSI is managed directly by the European

Commission. It brings together three EU programmes: PROGRESS, EURES and Progress Microfinance. In particular, PROGRESS Axis supports the modernisation of employment and social policies (61% of the total budget).

The main purpose of this call is to foster policy innovation in the organisation and delivery of social services aiming at the integration of service users in the labour market. Social policy innovation (SIP) focuses on addressing social challenges by providing better and innovative responses to identified social needs, in order to deliver better social outcomes. The SIP stresses the need to embed social policy innovation in policy-making and to connect it to social priorities. The deadline is on November 16th, 2015.

If you are interested in the EaSi Programme:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081>

Call for proposal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=462&furtherCalls=yes>

Interreg MED – Cooperation Programme



First call for modular projects of the programming period 2014-2020

The overall objective of the Interreg MED programme

is to promote sustainable growth in the Mediterranean area by fostering innovative concepts and practices, reasonable use of resources and supporting social integration through an integrated

and territorially based cooperation approach. The specific objective of the current call is oriented towards improving innovation capacities of public and private actors of Mediterranean regions and support smart and sustainable growth. It grants a specific attention to social innovation that represents strong development and jobs potential in the Mediterranean regions.

With the aim of transforming ideas into concrete and innovative solutions with a transnational impact, a new module-based approach is used. This approach is materialised by different “modules” (studying, testing, capitalising), which applicants must refer to in the elaboration of their project.

The deadline is on November 2nd, 2015.

If you are interested in the MED Programme and in this first call, you can read the terms of reference and the programme manual:

<http://interreg-med.eu/en/first-call-for-project-proposals/>

EDSA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015



EDSAAGA - LISBON 18-20 September 2015. The general meeting of the associations (AGA) took place in Lisbon, from 18th to 20th September 2015. Twenty-three associations from countries all over Europe (Germany, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, France,

Albania, Switzerland, Slovenia, Norway, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Spain, Turkey, Scotland, Hungary) took part of the meeting. The representatives of the participating associations had a discussion on different topics of interest (such as school system, self-advocacy, and job inclusion) and agreed on priority actions for 2016.

The minutes of the meeting are available at the link:

<https://jumbo.iskon.hr/share/080f81a6-7509-4b2a-84f1-dba244db8e1a>

NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

COORDOWN (ITALY)

SPORT21 ONLUS: TO PROMOTE SPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH ID



Many people with Down syndrome practice sports, at promotional or competitive level, which are considered an excellent tool for integration. They are able to surprise you: looking at their

results and performance techniques, they are highly trained athletes, who carry with them a message of great social value. Practicing sports by disabled athletes is to accept a double challenge, on the one hand with themselves, on the other with the prejudice of other

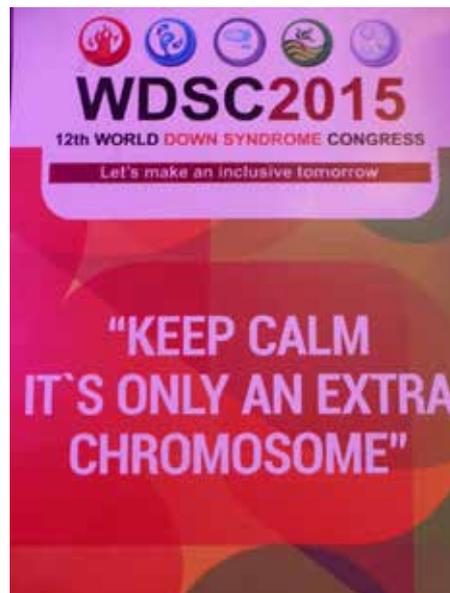
people. For this reason, CoorDown decided to set up SporT21 Italy Onlus, an association to promote and support people with intellectual disabilities in sport. The project aims to enter into agreements with all sports clubs, Federations, Paralympic Committees and sport promotion authorities in order to organize events, competitions and sports training for people with intellectual or relational disabilities, in order to provide them with opportunities for social, physical and mental health and to improve the quality of their lives.

For further information:

www.sport21.it

XII. DS-WORLD CONFERENCE IN CHENNAI, INDIA

By Cora Halder



From the 18th to the 21st. of August 2015, the global Down Syndrome family met in Chennai, India for the XII DS World conference. About 600 delegates, 100 with Down-Syndrome, attended 4 days long lectures and workshops. They came from 38 nations, among them delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore and United Arab Emirates and African countries like Uganda or Botswana. Only few people from European countries travelled to India.

The focus of the first day was mainly on medical topics. Though everyone could attend, most part of participants came from the medical world. We heard 20 lectures at 15-minute intervals, from Prenatal Diagnostics to Alzheimer. Lectures about orthopaedic issues, hearing and speech, obesity and neurological, emotional and social age related issues were among those I found extremely interesting.

Young people with Down-Syndrome - mainly youngsters from India and at least 40 Australians - met on the first day at the so called Panchayat - a kind of youth parliament - to discuss their own topics and presenting their conclusions later at the plenary session of the assembly.

Many different topics were presented the next three days and often the decision on what to attend was not easy. Regression in young adults and, further on, in life, in addition to medical care and mental wellbeing in adults have been two great issues. Examples of educational material were presented in many lectures. We got some insight knowledge about the situation in India. We listened to Brian Skotko from the USA, who was one of the main attractive speakers at the conference and presented his three interesting studies about happiness in families, among siblings and in people with DS.



Of course some self - advocates talked about their life, dreams and rights. A young lady with DS has performed a typical Indian dance, another played a typical musical instrument. There was the flag ceremony, an impressive cultural program and excellent food :-> ... and a lot more to tell.

Vanessa dos Santos from South Africa handed the DSI presidency over to Dr. Surekha Ramachandran and at the end of this interesting and exciting conference the WDSC-Banner was handed over to the Scottish DS Association, which will be in charge for the next world conference in 2018.



MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER REALLY YOURS!

Have you got any news that we could publish in EDSA newsletter?
Please send us any information you would like to announce and we shall be happy to disseminate it all over Europe!

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